This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information acquisition method for an information processing apparatus which acquires attribute information related to image data of images stored in an external device, comprising:

detecting whether the information processing apparatus is connected to the external device so that they can communicate with each other; and

acquiring, for each of the images, partial information instead of full information of the attribute information ~~for each of the images~~ if it is detected that the information processing apparatus is connected to the external device.

2. (Previously Presented) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein the partial information of the attribute information requires a shorter period of time to be acquired than the rest of the attribute information.

3. (Original) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, further comprising:

in response to a request for an image by the information processing apparatus, acquiring from the external device the attribute information of the requested image except for the previously acquired partial information of the attribute information.

4. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an image recording apparatus which generates attribute information related to image data of stored images, comprising:

detecting whether the image recording apparatus is connected to an external device so that they can communicate with each other;

generating, for each of the images, partial information of the attribute information for each of the images if it is detected that the image recording apparatus is connected to the external device; and

transmitting the generated partial information instead of full information of the attribute information to the external device.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein the partial information of the attribute information requires a shorter period of time to be transmitted than the rest of the attribute information.

6. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 4, further comprising:

in response to a request for an image by the external device, generating the attribute information of the requested image except for the previously generated partial information of the attribute information; and

. transmitting the generated attribute information to the external device.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a connection unit that is connectable to an external device so to be communicated therewith; and

an attribute information acquisition unit that acquires attribute information related to image data of images recorded in the external device,

wherein said attribute information acquisition unit acquires <u>for each of the images</u> from the external device partial information instead of full information of the attribute information ~~for each of the images~~ when the information processing apparatus is connected to the external device.

8.   (Original)   The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the partial information of the attribute information requires relatively short periods of time for information acquisition processing of the information processing apparatus among the attribute information.

9.   (Original)   The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein, in response to a request for an image by the information processing apparatus, said attribute information acquisition unit acquires from the external device the attribute information of the requested image except for the previously acquired partial information of the attribute information.

10.   (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus comprising:

memory for storing plurality of recorded images;

an attribute information generation unit that generates attribute information related to image data of recorded images stored in the memory; and

a transmission unit that transmits the attribute information generated by said attribute information generation unit to an external device, wherein

when the image recording apparatus is connected to the external device so that they can communicate with each other, the attribute information generation unit generates, for each of the images, partial information of the attribute information for each of the images, and the transmission unit transmits the generated partial information instead of full information to the external device.

11.   (Original)   The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the partial information of the attribute information requires relatively short periods of time for information acquisition processing of the external device.

12.   (Original)   The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein, in response to a request for an image by the external device, said attribute information generation unit generates the attribute information of the requested image except for the previously acquired partial information of the attribute information, and said transmission unit transmits to the external device the generated attribute information except for the previously generated partial information of the attribute information.

13.   (Previously Presented)   An information processing method for a digital imaging system having a digital image generating apparatus and an information processing

apparatus, the digital image generating apparatus storing image data of a plurality of generated images as image files in a storage device, said method comprising:

the image processing apparatus managing a plurality of pieces of attribute information contained in object information related to each of the image files in the digital image generating apparatus in two or more categories; and

the image processing apparatus creating for each of the image files, an object only containing information in a part instead of in full of the categories out of the plurality of pieces of attribute information when the digital image generating apparatus is connected to the information processing apparatus.

14. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein,

when an application running on the information processing apparatus requires overall image data of an image, the digital image generating apparatus generates attribute information of the required image except for the attribute information in the part of the categories generated at the time of the connection between the information processing apparatus and the digital image generating apparatus, and

the information processing apparatus acquires the generated attribute information, and then stores and manages the generated attribute information in the object created at the time of the connection.

15. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein the information in the part of the categories of the attribute information is acquired from management information held by a file system in the digital image generating apparatus.

16. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 14, wherein the attribute information except for the information in the part of the categories of the attribute information contains data in a file stored in the digital image generating apparatus.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute the information acquisition method according to claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute the information processing method according to claim 4.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer readable encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute the information processing method according to claim 13.

20. (Previously Presented) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

21.   (Previously Presented) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein said partial information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

22.   (Previously Presented) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.

23.   (Previously Presented) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.

24.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

25.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein said partial information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

26.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.

27.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.

28.   (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

29.   (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said partial information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

30.   (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.

31.   (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.

32.   (Previously Presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

33.   (Previously Presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said partial information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

34.   (Previously Presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.

35.   (Previously Presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.

36.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

37.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein said partial information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

38.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.

39.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.